COURSE DESCRIPTION

There are many reasons why the study of the urban is significant in the present – as the population of the world living in cities continues to increase, as urban consumerism becomes even more central to capital accumulation, as climate change is linked to urban built landscapes and consumerist lifestyles. This course will focus on the urban as it is demarcated from non-urban space in social and economic discourses, and urbanization as a process that shapes how society and nature are experienced. Theories of urbanization range from those that focus on local city policies to those that recognize the global role of urban economies. New practices associated with mobility and food are also becoming key to understanding the urban as cities seek to become sustainable in the context of climate change. Overall, this class will ensure that students gain a deep understanding of how urban places are being studied in the social sciences and how these studies become useful to understanding present conditions and future trajectories of urbanization and globalization.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce various approaches to understanding the urban,
- Define the social and cultural processes that comprise urbanization,
- Consider how urban environments are crucial in planetary futures,
- Delve into different forms of consumerism in urban contexts,
- Compare urban processes in the Global North and South, and
- Understand the disciplinary frameworks through which urban studies can be conducted.
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

This course is structured around readings from academic books and journals that will form the basis for assignments and class discussions. It is being offered in a hybrid format, with in-class meetings every Tue (203 Education Building) and online synchronous class meetings every Thu (via Zoom) from 12 to 1.20 p.m. The class will be a mix of lectures and discussions. Students are expected to actively participate by completing all reading assignments, submitting written exercises, and engaging in thoughtful discussion of the assigned readings in weekly discussions. This course requires that all students take an active role in their own learning, as well as interact with each other through in-class and virtual class sessions to produce a collaborative and supportive learning environment. All students are expected to participate in a manner that demonstrates adequate reflection and understanding of the subject matter, respect for your colleagues in the class, and a willingness to learn and grow. Everyone should feel comfortable sharing their thoughts freely during the class meetings and in the online discussion forums.

The foundation of this course is its weekly assignments, and an intensive and substantial level of engagement with pertinent class lectures and readings is expected. Lectures and readings will be available via Blackboard and will be discussed in class. All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, and due dates, maximum points, as well as grading rubrics will also be available on Blackboard. Please adhere to the due dates for assignments or let me know of any issues with submitting them. Late submission of assignments may result in the assignment not being graded. Finally, all assignments have to be submitted in order to obtain a final grade for this class.

**Class Participation (20%)**

Class participation will be counted based on any one of the following: completion of in-class assignment, contribution during online class via audio or chat, or response to discussion board question.

**Weekly Assignments (40%)**

Each week, students will be expected to complete an assignment based on the lectures and readings for that week. The assignment will be in the form of a short essay of 1-2 pages in response to questions provided by the instructor. Assignments will become available every Friday and will be due the following Monday. The aim here is to ensure that students read and reflect on course materials in a timely fashion.

**Project Presentation (30%)**

The project will require students to compare one or two major aspects (e.g. economic development, cultural characteristics, climate change policies) of two major cities – one US and one non-US. Students will be expected to find at least five academic references (journal articles, books, book chapters) for each of the two cities and analyze the theories, methods, and findings of these references. The presentation will be in the form of a PowerPoint file (consisting of 10-20 slides) and can be presented in class or submitted as a video recording. The case study cities and references chosen for the project have to be discussed with the instructor before they can be utilized for the project.
Final Assignment (10%)
This will consist of an overview essay of around 3-5 pages that will discuss what the various themes of the class suggest in terms of the future of urban places and urban studies. The questions for the final assignment will be provided by the instructor and will be due during final exams week.

Grading scale (based on weighted total percentage points)
A = 90% plus
B = 80-89.9%
C = 70-79.9%
D = 60-69.9%
F = 59.9% and below

Note: Grading scale may vary depending on discretion of the instructor. All assignments have to be completed to receive a grade for this class.

COURSE READINGS
Course Materials (e.g. books, book chapters, journal articles, videos) will be listed on Blackboard, and will be available either on Blackboard (as pdf files) or through the UTEP Library website. Please contact Dr. Basu in case of any difficulties in obtaining access to readings.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)
This calendar provides an overview of the course. More details, including readings and assignments, will be available after the first week of classes.

NOTE:
• Meeting times: In-class meetings every Tue (203 Education Building) and online synchronous class meetings every Thu (via Zoom) from 12 to 1.20 p.m.
• Due dates: All weekly assignments will be due on Monday. Due dates for other assignments will be provided on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, Aug 29, Tue</td>
<td>Introduction and Discussion of Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, Aug 31, Thu</td>
<td>Defining Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2, Sep 5, Tue</td>
<td>Urban Economies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2, Sep 7, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3, Sep 12, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3, Sep 14, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4, Sep 19, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4, Sep 21, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5, Sep 26, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5, Sep 28, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6, Oct 3, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6, Oct 5, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7, Oct 10, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7, Oct 12, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8, Oct 17, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8, Oct 19, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9, Oct 24, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9, Oct 26, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10, Oct 31, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10, Nov 2, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11, Nov 7, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11, Nov 9, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12, Nov 14, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12, Nov 16, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13, Nov 21, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13, Nov 23, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14, Nov 28, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14, Nov 30, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15, Dec 5, Tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15, Dec 7, Thu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finals week, Dec 11-15
Final assignment (take-home)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- This course is being offered in a hybrid format, and class meetings will be held in person on Tuesdays in 203 Education Building and online on Thursdays via Zoom, from 12 to 1.20 p.m.

- Class readings and lectures will be available via Blackboard.

- Weekly assignments for the course will be due on Mondays. Assignments have to be submitted via Blackboard.

- The foundation of this course is its assignments, so it is important that you attentively and carefully devote time to reading and completing assignments in a timely manner. The course expects an intensive and substantial level of engagement with the reading material and a reflection of this engagement in the assignments, research papers, and exams.

- Students are expected to actively participate by completing all reading and viewing assignments, submitting written exercises, and engaging in thoughtful discussion in class and on the discussion board. All students are expected to participate in a manner that demonstrates adequate reflection and understanding of the subject matter, respect for your colleagues in the class, and a willingness to learn and grow. Class meetings and discussion forums are expected to be safe environments and any material posted on them can only be used for class purposes.

- All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, and due dates, maximum points, as well as grading rubrics will also be available on Blackboard. Please adhere to the due dates for assignments or let me know of any issues with submitting them. Late submission of assignments may result in the assignment not being graded. Finally, all assignments have to be submitted in order to obtain a final grade for this class.

- Office hours for the class will be conducted via Zoom. Students will preferably first contact the instructor via email and then set up a specific meeting time as required.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is partly delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.
If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Note that for technological issues, the Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you. However, you can also let me know in case this interferes with your ability to attend class, or submit assignments in a timely fashion.

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

Since this is an online class, we will not be in the same place as each other. I will not be visiting campus or available in my office over the Spring semester. However, there are a number of ways we can keep communication channels open:

- **Office Hours**: I will have virtual office hours by appointment for your questions and comments about the course via Zoom.

- **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course name in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

- **Discussion Board**: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, you can also post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students’ questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements**: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.

- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended
for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course**

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

This class requires that you participate in in-class meetings on Tuesdays and scheduled Zoom sessions on Thursdays, 12 to 1.20 p.m.

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in scheduled in-class and Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers in class and on the discussion boards
- Other activities that may be indicated

Since these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**ZOOM SESSIONS**

These sessions will include lectures and participation in discussion with your classmates.

Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

**ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

**ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

If you are unable to attend class, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

**DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Weekly Assignments

- Assignments will be due on Mondays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.
• Deadlines for in-class assignment and discussion boards will be announced in class.

MAKE-UP WORK
Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES
I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (assignments, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY
Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY
The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY
Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on
laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted in this course.

CLASS RECORDINGS
The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE
Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS
All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources
• **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

• **University Writing Center (UWC)**: Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

• **RefWorks**: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

• **The Miner Learning Center**: Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.

• **UTEP Edge**: UTEP’s cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students’ assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

• **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

• **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

• **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

• **Student Success Help Desk (SSHD)**: Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu

• **UTEP Food Pantry**: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.